

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being the independent claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-7 are considered to contain allowable subject matter. The specification and Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to improve their idiomatic and grammatical form. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Claims 1 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner takes the position that the specification enables the fluorine-containing epoxy resins having, in one molecule, at least one perfluoroalkyl group of 6 to 12 carbon atoms and at least two alicyclic epoxy groups that are exemplified in the specification, but does not provide enablement for other fluorine-containing epoxy resins. Applicants respectfully disagree and request reconsideration of this rejection.

At pages 14 to 23, the specification explains the action and effect of the fluorine-containing epoxy resin, based on its chemical structure, which is set forth in Claim 1 of the present application. Specifically, the specification states that the fluorine resin has fluorine atoms present at the relatively outer side of its molecule, even when the epoxy group of the resin reacts to form a resin layer. Therefore, the resin layer obtained by polymerization using the epoxy group is quite hard,

and its surface exhibits good water-, oil- and ink-repellent properties. In Applicants' view, based on the description in the specification of this action and effect, a person of skill in the art would be able to understand what chemical structures could be used as the fluorine resin of Claim 1, other than those exemplified in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants conclude that the present inventions as set forth in Claims 1 and 8 to 11 are sufficiently enabled by the specification.

Applicants request withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejection, and submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants agree that the art made of record but not relied upon does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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